

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 2-4 and 14-19 were withdrawn from consideration, hence claims 1 and 5-13 are currently presented for examination.

The only remaining issue relates to whether or not claims 1, 5-13 are patentable over Jessop (US 6,524,786) in view of Clapper et al. (US 5,512,474). Applicants submit that Jessop is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and both Jessop and the current application are owned by the same party. Applicants enclose a Terminal Disclaimer as well as a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.130(a). Applicants respectfully assert that in view of the enclosed submission, Jessop is disqualified as prior art.

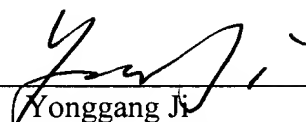
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert the Examiner's rejections cannot be sustained and should be withdrawn. Applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 1 and 5-13.

Appl. No. 09/992,111
Amendment dated February 24, 2006
Reply to Office action of December 1, 2005

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on February 24, 2006.

Signature: 

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